

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action dated May 9, 2006. No new matter has been added. By virtue of this amendment, claims 8, 12-18 and 22-24 are pending. Claims 7, 9, 10, 11, and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and further examination of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Applicants wish to thank Examiner Reagan for indicating the allowable subject matter of claims 12 and 24. Claims 12 and 24 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants submit that claims 12 and 24 are now in a condition of allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested. Further claims 8 and 13-18 and 22-24, depend from newly amended independent claims 12 and 24, respectively, since dependent claims contain all the limitations of the independent claims, claims 8 and 13-18 and 22-24 should be allowable as well, which allowance is respectfully requested.

Although the Applicants respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of independent claims 7 and 21, the Applicants have elected to cancel independent claims 7 and 21 solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with PTO's Patent Business Goals (PBG), 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (September 8, 2000).

In light of the Office Action, Applicants believe these amendments serve a useful clarification purpose, and are desirable for clarification purposes, independent of patentability. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments do not limit the range of any permissible equivalents.

Applicants acknowledge the continuing duty of candor and good faith to the disclosure of information known to be material to the examination of this application. In

accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.56, all such information is dutifully made of record. The foreseeable equivalents of any territory surrendered by amendment is limited to the territory taught by the information of record. No other territory afforded by the doctrine of equivalents is knowingly surrendered and everything else is unforeseeable at the time of this amendment by the Applicants and their attorneys.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the grounds for rejection stated in the Examiner's Office Action have been overcome, and that all claims in the application are allowable. No new matter has been added. It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested.

PLEASE, if for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call either of the undersigned attorneys at (561) 989-9811 should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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